



# CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## SEPTEMBER 2004 AGENDA

### ☒ General Waiver

#### SUBJECT

Request by **Rescue Union School District** to waive *Education Code* (EC) Section 37202, the equity length of time requirement, to allow a full day kindergarten program at one of the district's four elementary schools, **Rescue Elementary School**.

Waiver Number: 11-7-2004

☒ **Action**

☐ **Consent**

#### RECOMMENDATION

☐ **Approval** ☒ **Approval with conditions** ☐ **Denial**

For one year with the condition that the district submit an evaluation before a renewal is considered.

#### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The State Board of Education (SBE) has approved similar waivers in the past.

#### SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

The Rescue Union Elementary School District requests a waiver of EC Section 37202, in order to implement a pilot program of a full day kindergarten at one of their four schools, Rescue Elementary School. This district is located in an area that was once rural but now faces increasing growth as the foothills of El Dorado County are being developed. Demographically, Rescue Elementary's enrollment has decreased from 600 to 400 pupils, as the attendance area has not seen as much development as El Dorado Hills and the Green Valley area. Some of the exiting pupils are leaving to attend private schools as this school has the lowest test scores in the district with a base API of 779. The district has a base API of 823 with the other schools' API's in the 800's.

The bargaining unit for the teachers suggested this pilot as a way to increase student achievement and to increase enrollment and therefore not lose a teacher position. An extended day kindergarten would connect the brand new preschool program at Rescue Elementary. This preschool program already has an enrollment of 49 children. The teachers union will look at the evaluation of the pilot program to decide to request an extended day kindergarten program at the other schools.

Rescue Elementary will offer 290 instructional minutes daily for this pilot program, an increase of 90 minutes a day. The school board adopted the Early Primary Program at their April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. An open enrollment policy is already in place throughout the district.

Therefore, the department recommends approval of the waiver for one year with the condition that an evaluation be submitted before a renewal will be considered.

**Authority for Waiver:** *Education Code* (EC) Section 33050

**Period of request:** August 12, 2004 to June 1, 2005

**Local board approval date(s):** April 27, 2004

**Public hearing held on date(s):** August 10, 2004

**Bargaining unit(s) consulted on date(s):** March 9, 2004 and April 13, 2004

**Name of bargaining unit/representative(s) consulted:** Lynn Simpkin, Lynn Scales, and Pam Price, Rescue Union Federation of Teachers

**Position of bargaining unit(s) (choose only one):**

☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Oppose

Comments (if appropriate): In favor of pilot program to evaluate their position.

**Public hearing advertised by (choose one or more):**

☒ posting in a newspaper ☒ posting at each school ☐ other (specify)

**Advisory committee(s) consulted:** All four elementary school site councils

**Objections raised (choose one):** ☒ None ☐ Objections are as follows:

**Date(s) consulted:** March 15 – 18, 2004

**FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)**

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The district will absorb any incurred costs.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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Action Item: Some documentation is available for web viewing. Waiver forms and other hard copy documents are available for viewing at the Waiver Office or State Board Office.